PLEASE AMEND THE CLAIMS AS INDICATED BELOW:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~viewfinder~~ control unit for ~~controlling a viewfinder for showing an image output from~~ a television camera viewfinder, said ~~viewfinder~~ control unit comprising:

~~detecting means~~ an image pickup device for ~~detecting a particular color portion~~ picking up a face of a television camera operator; and

~~driving means~~ a control device for training said viewfinder on [[a]] the face of the television camera operator in response to ~~a detection~~ an image output from said ~~detecting means~~ image pickup device.

2. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said ~~detecting means~~ image pickup device ~~comprises~~ is a miniature camera ~~for sensor application~~ attached to said viewfinder, ~~and detects~~ which is operable to detect the ~~particular color portion~~ face of the television camera operator ~~from~~ on the basis of an image output of said miniature camera ~~for sensor application~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:

a circuit responsive to ~~wherein said detecting means detects~~ a flesh color portion on the face of the television camera operator ~~as the particular color portion~~ in the image output from said image pickup device.

4. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said viewfinder ~~consists of~~ comprises a liquid crystal display.

5. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein said miniature camera ~~for sensor application~~ is rotatably attached to said viewfinder to make panning and/or tilting possible for capturing an accessory worn on the television camera operator.

6. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein the accessory to be captured by said miniature camera ~~for sensor application consists of~~ comprises a weakly luminous object own on the television camera operator.

7. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

~~storing means~~ a memory for storing information on a preset position of said viewfinder; and

a preset control ~~means for returning~~ circuit operative to return said viewfinder to the preset position in accordance with the information on the preset position stored in said ~~storing means~~ memory.

8. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 2, wherein said miniature camera ~~for sensor application~~ is used as an image pickup device of a videophone, and said viewfinder is used as a display unit of the videophone.

9. (Previously Presented) A television camera comprising the viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 1, such that the viewfinder is always trained on the face of the television camera operator independently of panning and/or tilting of said television camera.

10. (Currently Amended) A viewfinder control unit attached to a television camera, said viewfinder control unit comprising:

~~detecting means~~ an image pickup device operative to pick up a face ~~for detecting a particular color portion~~ of a television camera operator:

a calculation circuit operative to calculate ~~means for calculating~~ a central position of the ~~particular color portion~~ face of the television camera operator in response to said face image output of said image pickup device; and

a control circuit operative to drive ~~driving means for driving~~ a motor for panning and/or tiling said viewfinder in response to the central position calculated.

11. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein said ~~detecting means~~ image pickup device ~~comprises~~ is a miniature camera ~~for sensor application~~ attached to said viewfinder, and further including an image processing device which is operative to detect the ~~and detects the particular color portion~~ face of the television camera operator ~~from~~ from an image output of said miniature camera ~~for sensor application~~.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 10, wherein said viewfinder ~~consists of a~~ comprises liquid crystal display.

14. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein said miniature camera ~~for sensor application~~ is rotatably attached to said viewfinder to make panning and/or tiling possible for capturing an accessory worn on the television camera operator.

15. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 14, wherein the accessory to be captured by said miniature camera ~~for sensor application consists of~~ comprises a weakly luminous object worn on the television camera operator.

16. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

~~storing means for storing~~ a memory operative to store information on a preset position of said viewfinder; and

a preset control ~~means for returning~~ circuit operative to return said viewfinder to the present position in accordance with the information on the preset position stored in said ~~storing means~~ memory.

As to Van Den Herik, there is submitted herewith a translation of the original Japanese application as filed and a certification of accuracy, as provided for in 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a) (4). It is accordingly requested that Van Den Herik be withdrawn as a reference.

As to the rejection based on Rhodes, Guichard and Tomitaka, applicants respectfully submit it would not be obvious to combine the teachings of these references. As the Examiner recognizes, applicants are mainly concerned with improving the usability of studio type video cameras, particularly those having liquid crystal display (LCD) viewfinders, for which off-axis viewing can be a problem. In such applications, image composition and artistic issues require the camera operator to be moving the camera constantly, and the inablity to see clearly the product of his or her work without constantly having to move to stay on-axis with the viewfinder as the camera is panned or tilted, or constantly having to adjust the viewfinder, can be both distracting and tedious, and could easily have an adverse effect on the quality of the camera work. The invention is also applicable to video phones as recited in claims 8 and 17.

In contrast, Rhodes is directed a video security system, e.g., for use in a casino. The patent lists seven deficiencies in prior art video security systems (see col. 1, lines 11-32). None of these is even remotely related to improving the usability of a manually operated studio television camera. In fact, the cameras used in Rhodes' security system, of which the patent says there would typically be 125 (see col. 3, lines 31-32), don't even have view finders, are not panned, tilted or raised and lowerd for artistic purposes by a camera person, don't move on dollies, and do not employ LCD displays.

Guichard is concerned with a tiltable terminal display unit for a videophone or the like. The Examiner says it would have been obvious to equip Rhodes' monitors with tilt mechanisms. With all due respect, however, adding such complexity to the multiple monitors required for a security system would be virtually useless, and accordingly, not obvious. The security personnel are not constantly moving with or relative to view finders mounted on the cameras. Nor are they in such close proximity to the monitors that a small changes in position relative the monitor will result in a significant change in viewing angle with consequent loss of visual clarity or need to adjust the viewing angle. Indeed, since Rhodes does not suggest use of LCD monitors, the viewing angle will be even less of an issue.

17. (Currently Amended) The viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 11, wherein said miniature camera ~~for sensor application~~ is used as an image pickup device of a videophone, and said viewfinder is used as a display unit of the videophone.

18. (Previously presented) A television camera comprising the viewfinder control unit as claimed in claim 10, such that the viewfinder is always trained on the face of the television camera operator independently of panning and/or tilting of said television camera.